

City Council Response to  
State of the City Address

Presented by Council President  
Lynn M. Kopka

March 1, 2012

Welcome to all who attend our monthly Council meetings. Thank you Mayor Rosamilia, Deputy Mayor Ryan, members of the administration, and other guests for joining us tonight. All of the Council members are honored to be here every month. It is a privilege to deliver our annual address to the residents of Troy.

Partnerships. Cooperation. Bipartisanship. These were a few of the comments that I, and the other City Council candidates, heard from residents as we went door-to-door last fall. Each of us promised that is what we would deliver in 2012. These same goals were noted by Mayor Rosamilia in his State of the City address last month. Common ground from the beginning!

The new Council began 2012 full of promise. However, we seemed to be rowing without oars.

### Our First Council Meeting



We quickly got our feet wet but we didn't drown and we didn't tread water.

### Getting Ready for the Second Council Meeting



Instead we swam, got back in the boat and are paddling upstream.

Now we're cruising



Now we are focusing on working together as a Council and as a partner with the administration to revitalize our city. This Council has begun the task of rediscovering the city's assets. We have toured the city's crown jewels – our parks. We have toured RPI's campus and learned of its long range plans. We expect to meet with Sage and Hudson Valley Community College to discuss future collaborations. We are scheduled to see the firehouses and cemeteries and DPW and DPU facilities. We have set a date to tour Troy Housing Authority's properties. We have seen the cemetery records that are so old they crumble. We have attended every neighborhood meeting. We have listened to people from all walks of life from South Troy to Lansingburgh tell us what is important to them in making Troy successful. We heard from a woman in Lansingburgh who is organizing an alley landscaping project. We heard from a child in South Troy who wants more basketball hoops.

What we have seen and heard is that we must work together toward common goals and a shared vision.

Together, we will build upon our past successes.

## **Building on Our Success**



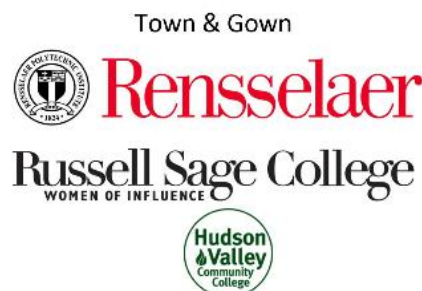
We will continue to encourage and welcome new development, including preservation and reuse of our historic structures.



Bomber's Burritos will preserve a vacant building while making an attractive gateway to downtown. McGrievy's Lansingburgh café will be the construction of a new compatible building, which will feature a specialty bakery. I personally am looking forward to that ribbon cutting.



We will strengthen our existing partnerships with our higher educational institutions of RPI, Sage and HVCC. The colleges need a healthy city, the city needs healthy colleges. We look forward to seeing interns buzzing about City Hall and students adopting our city as their city. We are looking at ways to have joint projects. The more chances for students, faculty and staff to interact with Troy residents, businesses and organizations, the more they will have a stake in our community. A group of RPI marketing students has already walked around Lansingburgh's business district and is developing a plan to market and promote the merchants.





We will communicate more regularly with the Lansingburgh and Troy School Districts and the many private elementary and secondary schools.

We will work with the community organizations that employ our residents and provide services to Troy. The health care systems, Community Gardens, Arts Center of the Capital Region, Rensselaer County Historical Society, Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce, TAP, TRIP, Unity House, CEO, the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Y, among others, have a great deal to contribute to the future of our city. They will be active partners as the city seeks to move forward in a time of financial constraints. Working together we can leverage funds and devise new approaches to common challenges.



We will engage the business community as we seek to jointly develop shovel-ready sites and assist with retention and expansion. We will work to move start up firms from incubator space to permanent homes in the city.

We will harness the power of our neighborhoods and their leaders. Anyone who has dealt with Tina Urzan, Nina Glandz, Kim Mazur, Jim Gordon, Jane Snay, Sid Fleisher, Xenia Allen, Thila Bell, Abby Lublin, and others in the trenches, knows that our residents are our greatest asset. Their energy and enthusiasm is infectious. It's time for everyone to have a seat at the table.



"...there must be eyes upon the street, eyes belonging to those we might call the natural proprietors of the street," —Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

From alley cleanups



to vibrant murals



to Earth Day activities



together we will revitalize our city block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood. Right now, the City Council is soliciting applications from neighborhood groups for the Neighborhood Improvement Program. These small grants augment ongoing efforts to improve and beautify intersections, alleys and buildings.

Troy's workforce is, and will be, a part of our revitalization. No matter the position - police officer, firefighter, emergency responder, animal control officer, code officer, planner, truck driver, snow plow operator, maintenance staff – the person holding that position is vital to Troy's growth. 'Doing more with less' is an overused phrase that fails to recognize what our workforce does each day.



Recent events on Campbell's Avenue and Front Street remind us that our infrastructure is aging and that pipes break, grounds shift, creeks overflow their beds. There are no easy solutions, and quick fixes are not the way to go. By working together, we will identify funding sources and solutions to aging streets, sewers and water mains. We will deal with the bumps in the road with humor and patience.



One of our biggest roles as a Council will be to promote our city, to herald its assets, to change perception. Troy's waterfront, public parks, educational and cultural institutions, historic heritage, businesses and creative forces are here. Let's promote the positive as we race into the future.





Too often we let others define Troy.



This City Council will work with all of you to define Troy as the place we proudly call home.

